Recd ~~ber~~ September 9. 1848
J.C.7

Lodiana, 7th June. 1848.

Very dear Brethren,

This letter has to begin with an apology: but I think I may engage, grace divine assisting me, that if my life and health be spared, your next favour shall receive a more prompt reply. Your last received, and thus far, I am ashamed to say, unanswered, lies before me: nearly six years old: the date being Dec. 15. 1842. A worthy brother, who was with you not long since, Mr. J. W. Cattell, has called my attention anew to the long neglected duty: and I thank him for it. I had not forgotten Princeton, nor the Society of Inquiry; but you know that things which are not of immediate urgency (and which nevertheless can be done to-day just as well as to-morrow) are very apt to be put off. It is an unprofitable, pernicious habit: and let me add my testimony to that of the many from whom you have heard the same already, to the importance of doing to-day just as much as may be, of the things that are to be done. If any of you, dear brethren, are in this habit, you are perhaps wishing just now that I would go on to give you the news from India. But suffer the word of exhortation, and you shall have the news afterwards. I never was so unpunctual as some persons: but sufficiently so to see that all the fruit of the tree is bitter, nauseous: and in the effort to cast it away utterly, I would fain persuade others to do the same

Let me now thank you for the kind and interesting letter which has just been acknowledged: though on account of the length of time that has elapsed you whom I address cannot be supposed to know anything of it: nor perhaps, some of you, of its writer. That individual was Br. W. Scribner. Where he now is, I know not: for I have heard nothing, I believe, concerning him, since. Of the many things in his letter which I should have noticed, had I answered it promptly, I advert to one now: viz. his entreating me to remember my native land in my prayers: a most suitable request: a most important duty: and that for a reason which he mentions, in addition to many others; namely, that the advancement of God's work among the heathen depends much on the state of piety at home. We cannot expect the stream to rise higher than the fountain: & I have often felt that if Christians at home were generally revived, we should be likely soon to have evidence of it here, even if we had no one to communicate the news. May the blessed influence be abundantly shed on you, dear brethren: and may every one of you be made a blessing to many.

The most important and interesting facts with reference to India, & India missions are already in your possession, so that I cannot expect to add much to your stock of information. I presume the most of the things that remain to be learned you would best acquire by personal observation and experience. If it be the Lord's will I hope and pray that he may dispose & prepare some of you for that experience. At this station there is not at present any thing of special interest, beyond what our late reports, now perhaps in print, will convey to you. We are all in the enjoyment of health: which is matter for deep thankfulness. No missionary, I believe has been obliged to leave Lodiana as yet on account of failure of health, except Mr. Morris: though illness in families has from time to time made a temporary resort to the hills necessary: but even this has not occurred for a length of time. Br. Porter, who is now on his way to America will tell you that no climate ever agreed so well with him as that of Lodiana. You will have heard that we have established a station beyond the Sutledge. May the time soon come when many missionaries shall labour there, and many native brethren too, instead of the one of the latter class who now stands alone in that wide & most inviting field. On the North West we are again threatened with war. The Province of Moultan revolted very unexpectedly the other day: and unless a merciful Providence prevent. next winter will bring another campaign. At Lahore too there was a fearful conspiracy detected a few weeks since; the object of which was a general massacre of the Europeans there. You are perhaps aware that there is merely a Provisional Government there, to last during the minority of the MahaRajah. The British might have taken possession of the whole country on the conclusion of the bloody campaign into which they were forced two & a half years since. But this they refrained from doing. Now however indications are that they will have Moultan to subdue, and should the Native Authorities at Lahore take part with that province, the result will very probably be the incorporation of the whole Punjaub with the British dominions. We see things in American papers and sometimes in British papers too, in which the measures of the East India Company are needlessly censured. I cannot defend near all that they do: & as little can I sympathize with the indiscriminate and sweeping charges I sometimes see. I could particularize, were there time. So much will serve to put you on your guard, and to remember that there may be two sides to a story. The majority of those who have the management of things here are worldly men, Christians only in name. Still there are those, and they are not a few, who feel that they are Christs stewards, and that God has given them place & power here for the advancement of his own Kingdom.

The writer of a previous letter to me made some inquiries respecting the language of the country. The language is easy: that is for one who has an ordinary capacity for language: and this he may discover, or his friends for him, by his rate of attainment in Latin, Greek, & Hebrew, at home. There are several languages spoken here: but I do not consider any of those to which my acquaintance extends, particularly difficult.

NEW-YORK
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To the Cor. Secretary Com. for Fn. Mission
Theolog. Seminary
Princeton
N. J.

Baird
Lowrie

Rec'd Sep 9
1848.

A request was also made for curiosities, for the cabinet. I believe I have not a tact for collecting such things: in other words perhaps not a taste: for various intentions in the matter have thus far resulted in nothing. I shall endeavour to keep the cabinet in mind: & should opportunities offer, avail myself of them.

And now dear brethren, with a feeling of deep interest in you, as candidates for a holy office, & a great & responsible work, and praying that you may be enabled day by day to present at the throne of grace with all simplicity and fervour, the question, "Lord *where* wilt thou have m[illegible] to do?" desiring

also myself to be remembered in your prayers,
I remain, in the best of bonds, affectionately yours, Levi Janvier.